

### Three alternative approaches to low-income housing

Minister of State for Urban Affairs Ron Basford recently invited the provinces to try a number of new ways of subsidizing housing for low-income families. "The public housing program in Canada has grown to about 20,000 units a year," Mr. Basford stated, "with the result that, during the past four years, more low-income families have been given housing subsidies than during the preceding 20 years."

Acknowledging that the new amendments to the National Housing Act would create additional means of easing housing problems, Mr. Basford nevertheless emphasized the need to take advantage of all opportunities to assist low-income families.

Within this federal initiative, three approaches were suggested by the Minister. Private developers and private lenders build housing to rent at market rates. Such homes cannot be afforded by low-income families. Developers, therefore, may be invited by a province to set aside a number of dwellings for low-income families. Rental supplements will make up the difference between subsidized and market rents, and will be shared by the province and the Federal Government.

A second approach visualizes a number of units in low-rental projects, financed by direct National Housing Act loans through Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation, being set aside for families who would otherwise be accommodated in subsidized public housing. Again, rental supplements will be used, and shared by the province and the Federal Government.

#### Social mixture

The third plan foresees a "mix" of low and middle-income groups in housing financed under federal-provincial arrangements. Rentals for low-income families would be geared to income, while those for middle-income occupants would range from non-subsidized to market rents. Capital costs and subsidies would be shared 75 per cent by the Federal Government and 25 per cent by the province and municipalities.

In summing up, Mr. Basford said: "I am pleased to announce that arrangements have been concluded with the Province of Ontario to use these new approaches in selected Ontario cities. I am also urging all provincial ministers responsible for housing to take advantage of these techniques."

### Wildlife scientist wins international award

Leslie M. Tuck, a Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) biologist, has won the terrestrial wildlife publication award of the Wildlife Society for his monograph on the snipes. Anthony J. Erskine, also a CWS scientist, received an honourable mention in the same category for his study of buffleheads, small diving ducks that nest in trees and breed in British Columbia and Alberta.

Dr. Tuck is the only Canadian scientist to have received the society's publication award twice. The first was given in 1962 for his work on the

murres, also published in the Canadian Wildlife Service monograph series. The monograph on the snipes was chosen from nominations by scientists, submitted mainly from the United States. Dr. Tuck's definitive work is the result of ten years' extensive research on this important game bird found in almost every country.

The Wildlife Society is a leading wildlife management organization with members in 61 countries. Its *Journal of Wildlife Management* is considered among the most authoritative in the world.

### Atlantic salmon stocks revive

Atlantic salmon stocks on Canada's Atlantic coast are showing definite signs of recovery after a season closed to commercial fishing.

Assessments of 1972 salmon runs in the major rivers of the Atlantic Provinces, released by Fisheries Minister Jack Davis, show that the numbers of salmon reaching spawning areas of New Brunswick's Miramichi,

Restigouche and Saint John watersheds were two to three times larger than they were in 1971. Commercial fishing in the estuaries of these watersheds, and in the Port aux Basques area of southwestern Newfoundland, was banned last spring because of declines in salmon stocks.

An increase in the proportion of large salmon, fresh from two years at sea, has resulted in spawning-egg deposits four to five times those of 1971, Mr. Davis said. The size of the spawning stock of Atlantic salmon in these rivers in 1972, although still low, has reversed the downward trend over the past decade.

### Seminar of Canada-Soviet electrical power group

The first seminar of the Canada-U.S.S.R. Electrical Power Industry Working Group was held last month at the Hydro Quebec Institute of Research (IREQ) at Varennes, Quebec.

Seven Soviet and 35 Canadian experts presented papers on subjects that dealt with the operation of electrical-power systems and design as an aid to developing discussion on mutual problems. The Soviet delegation was headed by K.V. Zuibnov. The Canadians were drawn from electrical utilities, manufacturers, consulting engineering firms and universities.

A similar seminar, at which seven Canadians will present papers, will be held in the U.S.S.R. this month; the theme will be civil and mechanical engineering aspects of the construction of generating stations and transmission-lines in severe climatic conditions.

Visits to electrical-power installations that relate to the topics of the seminar were arranged in each country for the visiting experts.

The working group is one of eight that were formed under the Canada-U.S.S.R. Agreement for Co-operation on the Industrial Application of Science and Technology. Seminars provide a convenient means of co-operation and exchange of technological information. The Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, Mr. Alastair Gillespie, is the Canadian chairman of the mixed commission that supervises the activities of these working groups.